

### *Rep. Braley receives the National Guard Association's Charles Dick Medal of Merit*

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) visited Camp Dodge in Johnston today to receive the Charles Dick Medal of Merit, an award recognizing the contributions to the National Guard by elected representatives at the state and national levels. Braley was honored by members of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) for his work on behalf of Iowa National Guard troops. Braley was nominated for the award by Brigadier General Tim Orr of the Iowa National Guard for his achievements in securing GI Bill Benefits and Respite Leave payments owed to Iowa National Guard troops.

“Working on behalf of our state’s citizen soldiers is one of my greatest privileges and top priorities,” Braley said. “As our Guard and Reserve troops have shouldered a large share of combat responsibility in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is my responsibility to ensure they receive the benefits they’ve been promised. I am proud to represent the brave men and women of the Iowa National Guard and their leaders, and I would like to thank them for their tireless service to our communities at home and abroad. They are the true heroes and their work cannot be honored sufficiently.

Braley has been a leader in Congress, working to improve care for our National Guard troops and veterans. Besides working to secure Respite Leave and GI Bill benefits owed to Guard troops, Braley has worked to equalize healthcare and education benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve components with active duty troops who serve similar deployments. Other legislation he has supported would improve healthcare services for all veterans and work to improve the retirement system for members of the Guard and Reserve.

Any elected official is eligible to receive the award if they demonstrate strong support of the National Guard that has a lasting effect on the Guard’s future. Congressman Dave Loebsack was also honored with the award this year.